FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Russo's Testimony Puzzles Interviewers

Perry Raymond Russo's name in yesterday's news matters in the assassination of President Kennedy has puzzled a number of Baton Rouge newsmen with whom the witness talked before being questioned by Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

He told a television interviewer he had never heard of Lee Harvey Oswald until he was linked with the assassination.

"I never heard of Oswald until on television (after) the assassination," Russo said. He said David W. Ferrie never mentioned Oswald's name.

When Russo approached the State-Times on Feb. 24, the insurance salesman's remarks dealt almost entirely with Ferrie.

Russo said Ferrie told him about a month before the assassination: "We will get him (Kennedy), and it won't be long."

Russo said he had thought nothing about the statement or other discussions of the case with which a president could be assassinated until he saw Ferrie's picture in the paper about Feb. 22.

Ferrie, described as a key figure in Garrison's probe, was found dead on that date in his New Orleans apartment.

Russo's identification of "Leon Oswald" yesterday seemingly contradicts his remarks in interviews here.

Russo told the State-Times he wrote a letter to Garrison on the night of Feb. 23, stating he might have information valuable in the probe.

At the time, Russo talked to reporters in Baton Rouge he had not received a reply from Garrison's office.

While Russo was being interviewed here, Garrison announced that he had solved the Kennedy assassination case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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